

TOWN OF TIVERTON RHODE ISLAND

HARBOR COMMISSION

343 HIGHLAND ROAD
TIVERTON RHODE ISLAND 02878

John McEwing, Chairman
David Stewart, Vice-Chairman
Harris Gruber, Secretary
Bob Dixon
Frank DiMauro
Roger Winiarski
Bruce Cox

Contact: John McEwing
Email: sv906905@netscape.net
Telephone: 401-624-2276

MINUTES OF MEETING

Monday, March 1, 2010

Meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM by Chairman John McEwing.

Other members present were: David Stewart, Harris Gruber, Bob Dixon, Roger Winiarski, Frank DiMauro, Bruce Cox and Harbormaster Dave Vannier.

Guests present were Tiverton residents: Mike Kearns, Anthony F. Gomes, Jackie Mei, Joe Aiello, Karen Durfee, Nick Maltair, Jamison Durfee, Rebecca Durfee, all of the eastern shore neighborhood of Nannaquaket Pond; also C. W. Smith of Riverside Drive; Kevin Cute of CRMC; and Bill Smith, PE, of Civil Engineering Concepts, Little Compton, RI, representing Jennifer Theroux of 114 Riverside Drive, regarding an application for repair to a rip-rap seawall at that address.

Item #1 – William Smith PE presented plans and drawing for work proposed to a rip-rap seawall on the Theroux property on Riverside Drive. The seawall is in an advanced state of decay. This is not an application for pier or dock construction. No permission of neighbors is required, as this is repair/restoration work on an existing structure. Old piling debris near the MLW mark will be removed. The work will be accomplished from the shoreline, if possible, otherwise from the water-side. No concrete bonding material will be used. Discussion was straightforward; no objections heard. Approved.

Item #2 – Oyster Farming in Nannaquaket Pond. Applicants were not present, but

numerous residents of the area immediately adjacent to the proposed site were in attendance. Harbormaster Dave Vannier opened the discussion by pointing out that the proposal by applicant Jim Duckett contained GPS coordinates that did not match the drawing of the proposed location (which he had personally double-checked). This proposal had been presented to the CRMC/Aquaculture Coordinator, but no action had yet been taken, pending a review by the Tiverton Harbor Commission.

A lively discussion ensued, participated in by all present. The residents were primarily concerned by the size and location of the proposed site, objecting especially to the location on the grounds that population is concentrated on the immediate near shores of the cove behind Delano Island and that it is heavily used by the residents in season for swimming, kayaking, boating and fishing; there are also a few moorings in this cove. The Harbor Commission members suggested that the site would be better located out in the more open area, in the southern reaches of Nannaquaket Pond. The GPS coordinates that had been provided by the applicant seemed to fit such a location, as well, contrary to the drawings that had been provided.

Questions were raised regarding winter ice and currents, depths required, riparian rights (each riparian owner may have as many as four moorings), loss of space, generally, that might ensue due to the size of the project (approximately 600' x 220'). It was pointed out that the waters of the Pond are the property of the State of Rhode Island and it has the authority to lease portions of the Pond and other suitable State waters for aquaculture projects, as they have done in some other locations around the State, subject to various reviews and hearings to inform affected residents and hear their concerns. It was agreed that more nearby riparian property owners should be asked to comment; and better details about the actual site location needed to be resolved, with a strong inclination by all present that a site out in the broader Pond should be considered, rather than in the somewhat restricted space behind Delano Island.

In an effort to move the proposal along and to give the applicants the opportunity to explain their proposal more fully, another Harbor Commission meeting was scheduled for March 4th.

Item #3 – Harbor Management Plan Revision. Kevin Cute of CRMC was present to discuss the status of our HMP. It was noted that the last completed HMP was done in 1993 and that much upgrading is required. Kevin Cute requested a point-person from the HC for frequent contacts to assist in the revision; Harris Gruber was appointed. KC recommended working to accomplish the revision in steps. He recognized that

the map-making required presents a challenge; Dave Vannier volunteered to undertake this aspect. KC pointed out that the perimeters of each mooring field would have to be shown on these maps and that the “inventory” of boats in each mooring field would need to be shown. There was also the requirement for ordinance creation and updating to be addressed. KC recommended using the Bristol HMP as a template, since it contains a great deal of “policy language”, which can easily be included by “cutting and pasting”.

Kevin re-presented a hard copy of our existing HMP draft (some portions highlighted for changes) and a July 2008 version of recommended changes (also a CD of these two items), as well as CRMC mapping DVD to enable the required map-making, plus another DVD with the Bristol HMP, plus a hard copy of same, and a hard copy of the CRMC “Guidelines to Preparing the Harbor Management Plan”, July 13, 2009 edition (also available on-line at the CRMC website).

The mapping DVD contains Tiverton and Fall River “quadrangle maps” and DEM Water Quality Maps; John McEwing will email Don Dettlinger to try and acquire the extensive mapping database that he has apparently prepared on the Tiverton mooring fields.

Item #4 – Mooring Inspections. Harbormaster Dave Vannier is addressing this matter, in an effort to obtain more information from individual mooring owners, and to advise them of more specific requirements in the future. Sizes of boats to correspond closely with mooring tackle specifications. Ongoing.

Item #5 - Harbor Patrol Jurisdiction sharing with Portsmouth. This matter has been proposed and will appear on an upcoming Town Council Agenda.

Item #6 – Illegal Float/Dock in Sin and Flesh Brook. Owner Peckham will remove the structures in the Spring.

Item #7 – Mooring Vendors. Discussion about the various commercial operators who offer mooring setting, inspection and retrieval services. List of same to be prepared and “certified” by Harbormaster for approval to service Tiverton moorings.

Item #8 – Harbormaster Job Description and Tiverton Personnel Board. HC HM Job Description subcommittee sent letter to Personnel Board, but have received no response.

Item #9 – Stone Bridge. State Senator Jay Edwards reportedly looking into funds “left over” from originally-proposed dismantling of the old Jamestown Bridge, perhaps as much as \$400,000 or more.

Item #10 – Possible Construction Debris for Use as Fill for Stone Bridge Restoration. Check with DPW and Town Administrator to see what might be available from recent Main Road upgrading project, and possible same from construction of the new Sakonnet River Bridge.

Item #11 – Harbormaster's Report.

-As of this date, \$35,790 (approximately 70%) of 2010 mooring fees have been received.

- Mooring # F-49 was returned; owner (Donald Chace?) passed away.*
- Tiverton Yacht Club sent in their race schedule; HM contacted USCG, who will send a “permit application” to the TYC; they must complete the application and return to the USCG for approval.*
- East Providence Boating Safety Day May 22. Requested that HM take our Patrol Boat to Cove Haven Marina for participation that day (along with patrol boats from numerous other towns). Approved.*
- 32 phone calls this month, mostly regarding mooring permitting matters.*
- The Patrol Boat is stored on its trailer at Dave Vannier's home. The bottom will be painted and the boat prepped for the season in about three weeks.*
- Still awaiting an expected fuel donation from the former owner of the Ericson sailboat, once the boat is sold.*
- Presented coming year's HM budget to Town Administrator for forwarding to Budget committee; recommended that request for funds for replacement Patrol boat be included.*
- Meeting was adjourned at 9:45 PM.*

Respectfully submitted, Harris Gruber, Secretary

All residents and other interested parties are invited to attend any of our meetings and to provide pertinent input. If you would like to receive email/mailed copies of our Agendas and Minutes, please contact: Harris Gruber, Secretary varnishman@cox.net or 843-906-6682.